

NEBRASKA

WEATHER & CROPS

NEBRASKA
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

For Week Ending May 12, 1996

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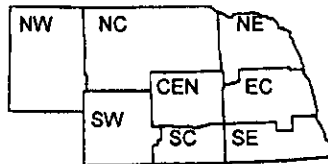
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National Agricultural Statistics Service
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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admn.
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
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WEATHER

In the west, temperatures averaged a little above normals while the remainder of the state averaged two to four degrees below normals. Precipitation was widespread across the State averaging from about a half inch in the north central and northeast up to three inches in the southeast.

GENERAL

Statewide rainfall the past week limited fieldwork activities, but will aid growth and development of pastures and small grains, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. With soil moisture conditions improved in most areas, warmer temperatures and sunshine are needed to boost row crop development. Severe weather in the form of heavy rains, tornadoes, and hail caused soil erosion and other destruction in parts of the south. Some replanting of row crops will be necessary. Producer activities, before rains set in, consisted of planting row crops and fertilizer and herbicide applications. Additional activities included grain marketing and livestock care.

CROPS

Winter wheat condition improved from last week and rated 8% very poor, 24% poor, 43% fair, 24% good and 1% excellent. As of Sunday, 39% of the wheat acreage had jointed, about eleven days behind last year and the average. This compares with 73% jointed last year and 72% for the five-year average. Producers in the Panhandle were completing weed control efforts.

Corn planting made limited progress last week due to wet soil conditions. The north central and southwest districts

CROPS (Cont.)

experienced fewest delays with rainfall less than three-fourths inch in most areas. Producers had 76% planted as of Sunday with only 10% emerged to date. Wet soil and weather conditions limited planting activities, however, progress was still seven days ahead of the normal 52% complete. Planting activities continued to be most advanced in the southeast and south central.

Soybean planting was also hindered by wet conditions the past week. Seven percent of the intended soybean acres were planted to date, ahead of last year's less than 1%, but slightly behind the five-year average of 9%. Planting activities were the most advanced in the south central district.

Sorghum planting progressed slowly with 5% complete as of Sunday, compared to less than 1% last year and the five-year average of 6%.

Oats emergence rated 91% and should benefit from recent rains.

Alfalfa condition rated 7% very poor, 19% poor, 39% fair, 33% good, and 2% excellent. Fields with winter kill continued to be reported in the northeast and east central districts. Some badly damaged fields were destroyed and were expected to be planted to corn or soybeans. Wild hay condition rated 2% very poor, 13% poor, 52% fair, 28% good, and 5% excellent.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition rated 6% very poor, 18% poor, 44% fair, 31% good and 1% excellent. Pastures benefited from the rainfall received last week but were still behind normal development. Producers in some areas were using the break in planting to move cattle to pastures.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF MAY 12, 1996	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER- AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	E C	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Planted	75	71	66	85	71	81	87	86	76	60	16	52
% Corn Emerged	9	2	3	7	12	9	9	24	10	n/a	0	14
% Wheat Jointed	18	28	24	49	37	47	63	79	39	25	73	72
% Sorghum Planted	0	2	8	14	7	1	11	2	5	2	0	6
% Soybean Planted	0	3	5	11	5	2	15	12	7	2	0	9
% Oats Emerged	78	91	89	85	96	98	91	100	91	79	n/a	n/a
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF MAY 10, 1996												
Days suitable	3.7	4.1	3.8	3.8	2.4	4.5	1.9	1.1	3.2	3.7	1.7	
Topsoil moisture - Very Short	0	3	0	5	0	4	4	0	2	9	0	
(Percent) - Short	22	8	7	20	0	28	13	2	10	29	0	
- Adequate	70	89	69	49	64	68	74	75	72	62	28	
- Surplus	8	0	24	26	36	0	9	23	16	0	72	
Subsoil moisture - Very Short	2	2	2	7	0	9	14	3	4	13	0	
(Percent) - Short	22	25	15	48	30	55	35	42	30	45	1	
- Adequate	76	71	79	40	65	34	51	49	63	42	57	
- Surplus	0	2	4	5	5	2	0	6	3	0	42	

n/a = not available

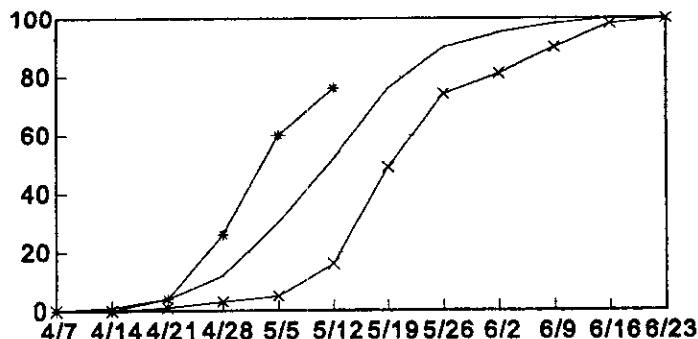
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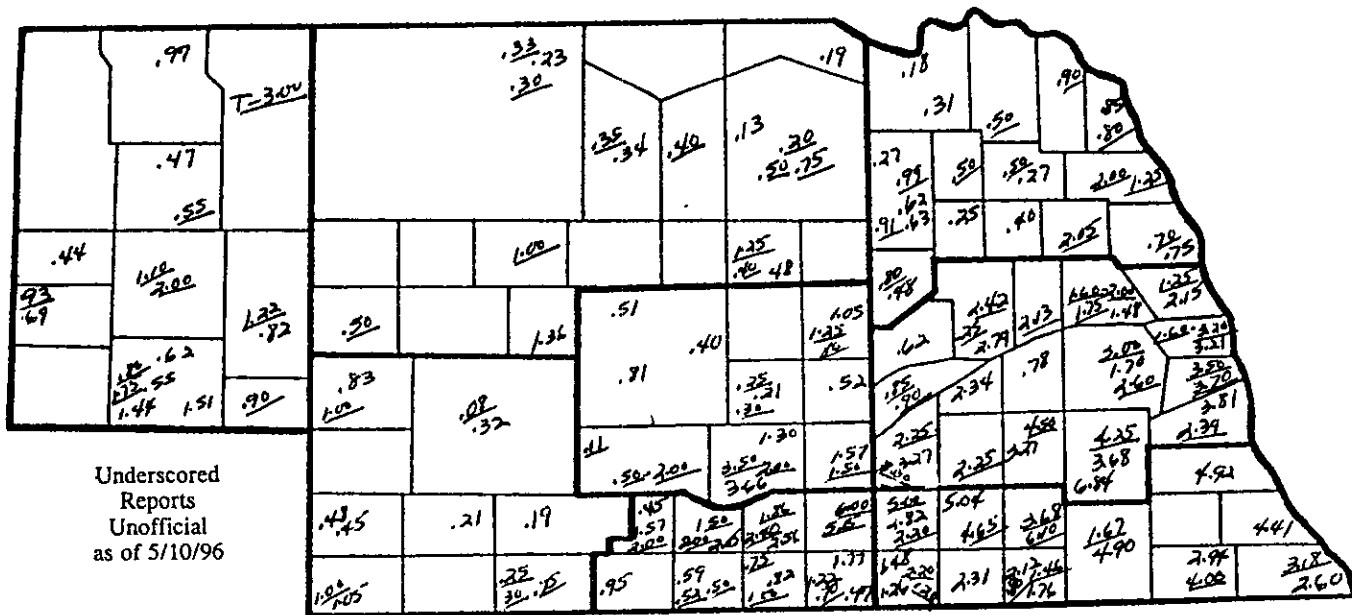
% PLANTED



5-YR. AV. 1995 1996

Progress as of Sunday

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1996



PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - MAY 11, 1996

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.83	.46	.46	1.11	2.76	.50	1.30	3.05
Total since April 1	2.18	1.96	2.46	3.11	5.90	1.85	3.10	5.42
Normal since April 1	2.87	3.33	3.78	3.71	4.18	3.01	3.45	4.20

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA, WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1996

Station		Temperature				Precipitation	Growing Degree Data Since April 15		
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches	Last Week	Current	Normal
		Max	Min						
NW	Chadron	71	32	50	---	.97	---	---	---
	Scottsbluff	77	33	54	+3	.44	137	191	216
	Sidney	75	30	51	---	1.44	122	166	191
NC	Valentine	69	33	49	-3	.23	---	---	---
	Arthur	---	---	---	---	---	131	158	188
	O'Neill	---	---	---	---	---	114	149	223
NE	Norfolk	71	39	52	-4	.25	---	---	---
	Sioux City	70	39	53	-3	.85	---	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	---	121	155	238
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	114	147	218
	West Point	---	---	---	---	---	140	176	233
CEN	Grand Island	70	39	53	-3	1.57	28	39	0
	Ord	70	37	53	---	---	137	170	237
	Kearney	---	---	---	---	---	159	191	251
EC	Lincoln	74	39	54	-3	3.68	170	213	261
	Omaha	74	45	56	-2	3.21	---	---	---
	Central City	---	---	---	---	---	158	196	269
	Mead	---	---	---	---	---	165	207	257
SW	Imperial	72	39	54	---	.45	---	---	---
	North Platte	73	37	53	0	.32	155	193	232
	McCook	---	---	---	---	---	170	205	268
SC	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	175	207	253
	Red Cloud	---	---	---	---	---	188	236	277
SE	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	190	241	269
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	165	201	254

Growing Degree Days (GDD) are used to measure the length of time required for a crop to reach maturity. The formula used to calculate GDD is: Max. temp. + min. temp. divided by 2 minus 50 = GDD. For example, if the average temperature for a day = 70 degrees, the GDD = 20 for that day. GDD are calculated for each day and accumulated from April 15.

Growing Degree Day data is furnished by the Department of Agricultural Meteorology, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.